November 2026
JTRAG Book List

Prepared and written by: Kip Ip
JTRAG Library Reading Coordinator
kip.ip@queensu.ca

• **Access:** Open the monthly JTRAG Reading and Book Lists using this Link or QR Code.

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1zRninff0svLBSYcHHeb1cSGj10TFsxbi

QR Code Book List

Shared in the monthly JTRAG E-News. Save the link for future issues.

- **Scope:** Resources for learning, reflection, and group discussion. Updated monthly.
- **Contact:** For questions or help finding a resource, contact Kip Ip, JTRAG Library Reading Coordinator, at kip.ip@queensu.ca.
- **November focus:** This list centres on Indigenous storytelling, language, family, and learning. Tomson Highway's five Massey Lectures are this month's featured audio series. New reading choices invite reflection on treaties, identity, faith, and relationships with the land. Choose what suits your interests and time.

• **JTRAG News and Resources:** Open the Monthly Bulletin using this link or QR code.

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1obaw-fgtGP-7zEiDV5WucNLzaFHXsrMN?usp=sharing

JTRAG Monthly Bulletin

The Joint Truth and Reconciliation Action Group (JTRAG) publishes a monthly e-bulletin with community updates, reconciliation news, and resources to support readers' personal reconciliation journeys with Indigenous peoples.

November 2026
JTRAG Book List

Prepared and written by: Kip Ip
JTRAG Library Reading Coordinator
kip.ip@queensu.ca

BOOK OF THE MONTH (November 2026)

Tomson Highway's 2022 Massey Lectures

- **Presenter:** Tomson Highway, Cree author, playwright, and musician.
- **Publication:** CBC Radio's Ideas, first broadcast in 2022. Five-part audio lecture series.
- **Synopsis:** Highway explores language, creation, humour, sex and gender, and death. Cree, Christian, and classical stories meet personal memories and laughter. He considers how the stories people live by can shape their relationships and responses to difficult questions.
- **Rationale:** A chance to hear a Cree storyteller in his own voice. The separate lectures allow listeners to begin with one topic and return to the others.
- **Content Note:** The lectures discuss religion, sex and gender, and death. Choose a lecture suited to your group.
- **How to access:** Use the single CBC series link below for all five lectures. The large illustration is not the audio player. Follow these steps:

  1. Open the series page. Scroll down past the illustration to the buttons labelled "Lecture 1" to "Lecture 5".

  2. Choose a lecture. On its page, scroll past the illustration and introduction to the audio player. Press Play.

  3. For the companion video, The myth of Billy Boy Cut Throat, use the link on page 3. Readers can listen at their own pace.

- **URL:** https://www.cbc.ca/radiointeractives/ideas/cbc-massey-lectures-tomson-highway

• Lecture 1 — On Language

Highway explores the power of language. He argues that it shapes how we see the world.

Prepared and written by: Kip Ip
JTRAG Library Reading Coordinator
kip.ip@queensu.ca

• Lecture 2 — On Creation

How did the universe begin? Highway asks who or what created it.

• Lecture 3 — On Humour

Highway introduces the Trickster through Cree humour. He invites listeners to see the world through joy and laughter.

• Lecture 4 — On Sex and Gender

Highway questions how belief in one god limits views of gender and the body. He describes an Indigenous view with room for many genders.

• Lecture 5 — On Death

Highway describes death as remaining within the earth's circle. He links this view to our care for the earth.

• Companion video — The myth of Billy Boy Cut Throat

Highway tells the story of his friend Billy Boy Cut Throat. He explains how truths become myths.

How to access: Open the video link below and press Play. This short story is separate from the five audio lectures.

URL: https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/video/1.6654862

• **Group Discussion:** How does humour help Highway approach serious questions? What might listeners miss when a story moves between languages?

• **Note:** Also indexed in C9. Watch and Listen.

November 2026
JTRAG Book List

Prepared and written by: Kip Ip
JTRAG Library Reading Coordinator
kip.ip@queensu.ca

CHILDREN

The Trees Talk (2026)

- **Author:** Jennifer Scott; illustrated by Carla Joseph.
- **Publication:** Medicine Wheel Publishing, 2026. Picture book; ages 6 to 9.
- **Synopsis:** Through poetry and images of trees, Scott reflects on death, ancestors, and connection with the natural world. The book offers children a gentle way to discuss loss and remember people they love.
- **Group Discussion:** What helps us remember someone we miss? Invite children to respond through words, pictures, or quiet reflection.
- **Content Note:** Bereavement. Read with a trusted adult.
- **How to access:** Ask your library about borrowing or interlibrary loan. Also check Libby, Amazon.ca for purchase, or Internet Archive for records and previews; availability varies.
- **URL:** https://shop.medicinewheelpublishing.com/products/the-trees-talk

chi miigwech, big thank you (2026)

- **Author:** astra márta; illustrated by Jordan Stranger.
- **Publication:** Orca Book Publishers, 2026. Picture book.
- **Synopsis:** A child gives thanks for the natural world, everyday care, and the full range of feelings. Anishinaabe teachings connect gratitude with the people and places that sustain life.
- **Group Discussion:** What might we thank without buying or owning it? How could gratitude change one small action today?
- **How to access:** Ask your library about borrowing or interlibrary loan. Also check Libby, Amazon.ca for purchase, or Internet Archive for records and previews; availability varies.
- **URL:** https://www.orcabook.com/chi-miigwech-big-thank-you

Prepared and written by: Kip Ip
JTRAG Library Reading Coordinator
kip.ip@queensu.ca

TEENS

The Moth Dreamer (2026)

- **Author:** Amy Lynn Farrell.
- **Publication:** HighWater Press, an imprint of Portage & Main Press, 2026. Young adult fiction.
- **Synopsis:** Sixteen-year-old Aubrey is troubled by visions after her cousin dies. With help from her Kokum, she confronts grief and a threatening supernatural presence. Anishinaabe language and family relationships shape this coming-of-age story.
- **Group Discussion:** How does Aubrey's relationship with her Kokum change her response to fear and guilt?
- **Content Note:** Death, grief, and frightening scenes.
- **How to access:** The link opens a book-information page. Ask your library about borrowing or interlibrary loan. Also check Libby, Amazon.ca and Internet Archive; availability varies.
- **URL:** https://www.livrescanadabooks.com/Books/T/The-Moth-Dreamer

At Ends We Rest: Five Short Stories (2026)

- **Author:** Samantha Erron Gibbon.
- **Publication:** UpRoute Books and Media, 2026. Short fiction; youth and adult readers.
- **Synopsis:** Five stories follow Indigenous young people seeking safety, belonging, and home. Family fractures and colonial harm shape their experiences. These fictional accounts draw attention to relationships and the need to be heard.
- **Group Discussion:** Choose one character. What would meaningful support look like from that person's point of view?
- **Content Note:** Family loss, violence, and residential-school legacies.
- **How to access:** Read the sample chapter on the publisher's page. Its order button still says "Pre-order"; confirm availability before ordering. Also check your library, Libby, Amazon.ca or Internet Archive.
- **URL:** https://durvile.com/books/at_ends.html

November 2026
JTRAG Book List

Prepared and written by: Kip Ip
JTRAG Library Reading Coordinator
kip.ip@queensu.ca

ADULTS

C1. History, Truth, and Reconciliation

Talk Treaty to Me: Understanding the Basics of Treaties and Land in Canada (2026)

- **Author:** Crystal Gail Fraser and Sara Komarnisky.
- **Publication:** Collins, an imprint of HarperCollins Canada, 2026. General nonfiction.
- **Synopsis:** The authors explain treaties, land, and continuing responsibilities. Maps and a timeline connect past agreements with present-day relationships.
- **Group Discussion:** What treaty responsibilities apply where you live?
- **How to access:** The link opens the book's library record. Ask your own library about borrowing or interlibrary loan. Also check Libby, Amazon.ca and Internet Archive; availability varies.
- **URL:** https://ottawa.bibliocommons.com/v2/record/S26C1669080

Truth Before Reconciliation: Confronting Residential School Denialism (2026)

- **Editors:** Sean Carleton and Niigaanwewidam James Sinclair.
- **Publication:** University of Manitoba Press, 2026. Nonfiction.
- **Synopsis:** Contributors use Survivor accounts and historical evidence to challenge residential-school denialism and examine misleading claims.
- **Group Discussion:** How can readers check claims while respecting Survivor testimony?
- **Content Note:** Residential-school harm and racism.
- **How to access:** Ask your library about borrowing or interlibrary loan. Also check Libby, Amazon.ca for purchase, or Internet Archive for records and previews; availability varies.
- **URL:** https://uofmpress.ca/books/truth-before-reconciliation

Prepared and written by: Kip Ip
JTRAG Library Reading Coordinator
kip.ip@queensu.ca

C2. Fiction

Eliza Sunshine (2026)

- **Author:** Michelle Good.
- **Publication:** Random House Canada, 2026. Adult fiction.
- **Synopsis:** This novel follows three generations of Cree women: Swan, Eliza, and Ella. Family stories and relationships with the land help them face residential-school harm, separation, and changing understandings of identity and freedom.
- **Group Discussion:** What can one generation offer another? How do the women understand freedom differently?
- **Content Note:** Residential schools, racism, sexual violence, and family loss.
- **How to access:** Ask your library about borrowing or interlibrary loan. Also check Libby, Amazon.ca for purchase, or Internet Archive for records and previews; availability varies.
- **URL:** https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/812994/eliza-sunshine-by-michelle-good/

Seventhblade (2025)

- **Author:** tonia laird.
- **Publication:** ECW Press, 2025. Adult fantasy.
- **Synopsis:** After her son is murdered, the warrior T'Rayles seeks justice in a city shaped by colonial rule. Dangerous alliances test her decisions. This imagined world explores grief, power, resistance, and the costs of revenge.
- **Group Discussion:** When does seeking justice become revenge? What choices does the city's unequal power leave its inhabitants?
- **Content Note:** Violence and the death of a child.
- **How to access:** Ask your library about borrowing or interlibrary loan. Also check Libby, Amazon.ca for purchase, or Internet Archive for records and previews; availability varies.
- **URL:** https://ecwpress.com/products/seventhblade

Prepared and written by: Kip Ip
JTRAG Library Reading Coordinator
kip.ip@queensu.ca

C3. Biography and Memoir

Tough Lies (2026)

- **Author:** Jesse Wente with Meg Masters.
- **Publication:** Allen Lane, 2026. Memoir.
- **Synopsis:** Wente reflects on grief, racism, belonging, and healing through his relationship with golf. Personal experience opens questions about identity, colonialism, and the stories people accept about themselves and others.
- **Group Discussion:** How can an ordinary activity become a place of healing? Where does Wente connect personal experience with public responsibility?
- **How to access:** Ask your library about borrowing or interlibrary loan. Also check Libby, Amazon.ca for purchase, or Internet Archive for records and previews; availability varies.
- **URL:** https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/768624/tough-lies-by-jesse-wente-with-meg-masters/9780735250765/

We Survived the Night: An Indigenous Reckoning (2025)

- **Author:** Julian Brave NoiseCat.
- **Publication:** Random House Canada, 2025. Memoir and reportage.
- **Synopsis:** NoiseCat connects his relationship with his father to Indigenous lives across North America. Reporting, family memory, and Salish storytelling shape an account of identity, inherited harm, and survival.
- **Group Discussion:** How do family stories and reporting illuminate one another? What does the father–son relationship reveal that statistics cannot?
- **Content Note:** Intergenerational trauma and family separation.
- **How to access:** The link opens a library record, not the full text. Ask your library about borrowing or interlibrary loan. Also check Libby, Amazon.ca and Internet Archive; availability varies.
- **URL:** https://ngpl.bibliocommons.com/v2/record/S192C5418751

Prepared and written by: Kip Ip
JTRAG Library Reading Coordinator
kip.ip@queensu.ca

C4. Faith and Reflection

Sharing the Light: Stories and Reflections (2026)

- **Author:** Monique Gray Smith.
- **Publication:** House of Anansi Press, 2026. Short reflections.
- **Synopsis:** Smith brings stories and questions to five practices: gratitude, love, joy, happiness, and hope. The short pieces invite readers to notice what sustains them and how they care for others.
- **Group Discussion:** Choose one reflection rather than the whole book. What small action could carry its meaning into the week?
- **How to access:** Ask your library about borrowing or interlibrary loan. Also check Libby, Amazon.ca for purchase, or Internet Archive for records and previews; availability varies.
- **URL:** https://houseofanansi.com/collections/all/products/sharing-the-light

Every Story Is a Call to Action (2026)

- **Author:** David A. Robertson.
- **Publication:** University of Alberta Press, 2026. CLC Kreisel Lecture Series; 56 pages.
- **Synopsis:** Robertson considers storytelling as a way to challenge injustice and connect people. Drawing on his work as a writer, he asks how stories can encourage understanding, responsibility, and action.
- **Group Discussion:** Which story has changed something you do? What would turn a thoughtful response into a practical commitment?
- **How to access:** Ask your library about borrowing or interlibrary loan. Also check Libby, Amazon.ca for purchase, or Internet Archive for records and previews; availability varies.
- **URL:** https://ualbertapress.ca/9781772128512/every-story-is-a-call-to-action/

Prepared and written by: Kip Ip
JTRAG Library Reading Coordinator
kip.ip@queensu.ca

C5. Poetry

Blended: Poems (2026)

- **Author:** Rebecca Thomas.
- **Publication:** Nimbus Publishing, 2026.
- **Synopsis:** Thomas explores Mi'kmaw identity, family relationships, illness, and memory. The poems connect intimate experiences with the continuing effects of residential schools and questions about whose voices institutions hear.
- **Group Discussion:** Choose one poem. How does a family detail reveal a larger social question without reducing the person to that issue?
- **Content Note:** Illness, grief, and intergenerational harm.
- **How to access:** The publisher still says "Coming Soon"; confirm stock before ordering. Ask your library, or check Libby, Amazon.ca and Internet Archive.
- **URL:** https://nimbus.ca/store/blended-poems.html

welík't (2026)

- **Author:** Kalli Van Stone.
- **Publication:** Nightwood Editions, 2026.
- **Synopsis:** Poems in nsyilxcn, Secwepemctsín, and English connect language, memory, and renewal. Van Stone brings attention to relationships across generations and the continuing effects of residential schools.
- **Group Discussion:** What changes when a poem moves between languages? Consider what translation can share and what it may leave unresolved.
- **Content Note:** Residential-school legacies. Approach the languages and teachings in their specific cultural contexts.
- **How to access:** Ask your library about borrowing or interlibrary loan. Also check Libby, Amazon.ca for purchase, or Internet Archive for records and previews; availability varies.
- **URL:** https://harbourpublishing.com/products/9780889715165

Prepared and written by: Kip Ip
JTRAG Library Reading Coordinator
kip.ip@queensu.ca

C6. Land and Activism

Mother Earth Is Our Elder: A Northern Indigenous Perspective on the Climate Crisis (2026)

- **Author:** Catherine (Katlia) Lafferty.
- **Publication:** McClelland & Stewart, 2026. Canadian edition; nonfiction.
- **Synopsis:** Lafferty draws on northern Indigenous knowledge and relationships with Elders to consider the climate crisis. She connects environmental harm with colonialism and asks how land, natural law, and collective responsibility can guide change.
- **Group Discussion:** Whose knowledge shapes environmental decisions? What changes when responsibility to the land comes before extraction?
- **How to access:** Ask your library about borrowing or interlibrary loan. Also check Libby, Amazon.ca for purchase, or Internet Archive for records and previews; availability varies.
- **URL:** https://www.penguinrandomhouse.ca/books/755796/mother-earth-is-our-elder-by-katlia-lafferty/9780771018572

De-colonizing Journeys: Confronting Colonialism through Circle Work (2026)

- **Editors:** Giselle Dias, Julia E. Janes, Kathleen E. Absolon, Jessica Hutchison, Jennifer Poole, and Carla Rice.
- **Publication:** Fernwood Publishing, 2026. Essays; guided group reading.
- **Synopsis:** Indigenous and settler contributors reflect on learning through sustained circle work. They explore relationships, land, spirit, and institutional change. The collection describes a shared process rather than a quick set of reconciliation activities.
- **Group Discussion:** What makes learning accountable to relationships? Discuss local guidance and permission before adopting circle practices.
- **How to access:** Ask your library about borrowing or interlibrary loan. Also check Libby, Amazon.ca for purchase, or Internet Archive for records and previews; availability varies.
- **URL:** https://fernwoodpublishing.ca/books/de-colonizing-journeys

Prepared and written by: Kip Ip
JTRAG Library Reading Coordinator
kip.ip@queensu.ca

C7. Indigenous Spirituality

Gaa Bi Kidwaad Maa Nbiising Nishnaabeg: Stories of the Original People of Lake Nipissing (2026)

- **Author:** Glenna Beaucage and Katrina Srigley, with Elders and Knowledge Holders of Nbiising Nishnaabeg.
- **Publication:** University of Manitoba Press, 2026.
- **Synopsis:** Community histories and sacred stories connect Nbiising Nishnaabeg with land, water, language, and one another. Elders' knowledge informs an account of creation, kinship, and continuing responsibilities.
- **Group Discussion:** How do stories connect place with responsibility? Read this as community-specific knowledge, not a universal guide to Indigenous traditions.
- **How to access:** The publisher still offers pre-orders; confirm stock first. Ask your library, or check Libby, Amazon.ca and Internet Archive.
- **URL:** https://uofmpress.ca/books/gaa-bi-kidwaad-maa-nbiising-nishnaabeg

Everything Is a Story: Reclaiming the Power of Stories to Heal and Shape Our Lives (2025)

- **Author:** Kaitlin B. Curtice.
- **Publication:** Brazos Press, an imprint of Baker Publishing Group, 2025.
- **Synopsis:** Curtice examines the stories people inherit about identity, faith, and belonging. Personal reflections invite readers to question harmful narratives and consider how different stories might support healing. This is one Potawatomi author's perspective.
- **Group Discussion:** Which inherited story has shaped your sense of belonging? What changes when you question its assumptions?
- **How to access:** The publisher says "Unavailable". Ask your library about a copy, or check Libby, Amazon.ca and Internet Archive.
- **URL:** https://bakerpublishinggroup.com/products/9781587436635_everything-is-a-story

Prepared and written by: Kip Ip
JTRAG Library Reading Coordinator
kip.ip@queensu.ca

C8. Faith-Based Resources

Reading the Bible on Turtle Island: An Invitation to North American Indigenous Interpretation (2025)

- **Author:** Daniel Zacharias and T. Christopher Hoklotubbe.
- **Publication:** IVP Academic, an imprint of InterVarsity Press, 2025.
- **Synopsis:** The authors bring North American Indigenous perspectives to Christian biblical interpretation. They examine relationships with creation, cultural knowledge, and colonial harm. Their approach challenges the assumption that Western readings are the only authoritative ones.
- **Group Discussion:** Who has been treated as an authoritative interpreter? How might this change a church discussion of Scripture?
- **How to access:** Ask your library about borrowing or interlibrary loan. Also check Libby, Amazon.ca for purchase, or Internet Archive for records and previews; availability varies.
- **URL:** https://ivpress.com/reading-the-bible-on-turtle-island

First Nations Version Psalms and Proverbs: An Indigenous Bible Translation (2025)

- **Lead Translator and Editor:** Terry M. Wildman, with the translation team.
- **Publication:** IVP, an imprint of InterVarsity Press, 2025. A separate Psalms and Proverbs volume.
- **Synopsis:** This English translation draws on Native American oral storytelling styles to present biblical poetry and wisdom. It is Christian Scripture, not a collection of every Indigenous Nation's spiritual teachings.
- **Group Discussion:** Compare a short passage with another translation. How do word choices affect your understanding of relationships and responsibility?
- **How to access:** Ask your library about borrowing or interlibrary loan. Also check Libby, Amazon.ca for purchase, or Internet Archive for records and previews; availability varies.
- **URL:** https://www.ivpress.com/first-nations-version-psalms-and-proverbs-paperback

Prepared and written by: Kip Ip
JTRAG Library Reading Coordinator
kip.ip@queensu.ca

C9. Watch and Listen

Tomson Highway's 2022 Massey Lectures

- **How to access:** See the Book of the Month on pages 2–3 for the five audio lectures, listening directions, and the separate companion video, The myth of Billy Boy Cut Throat.

Video: Our People Will Be Healed (film released 2017)

- **Filmmaker:** Written, directed, and produced by Alanis Obomsawin.
- **Publication:** National Film Board of Canada. Film released in 2017; documentary, 97 minutes. Official YouTube upload: February 16, 2024.
- **Synopsis:** The film visits the Helen Betty Osborne Ininiw Education Resource Centre in Norway House Cree Nation, Manitoba. Teachers and community members show how education can develop young people's abilities and cultural pride. This is one community's experience, not a universal model.
- **Group Discussion:** What makes this education responsive to its community? How do resources, relationships, and cultural pride work together?
- **How to access:** Open the link below to watch the NFB's full documentary on YouTube. Press Play; pause and return as needed. Regional restrictions may apply. Confirm permission before a public screening.
- **URL:** https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hiVUMaELsQE